

Coquereau were the only members who had not accompanied Napoleon to St. Helena. The remainder of the Commission were — Generals Bertrand and Gourgaud, M. Emmanuel de Las Cases (son of the writer of the *Memorial*), M. Marchand (the former valet), M. Arthur Bertrand, and four old servants of the Emperor, who had only left St. Helena after his death, and whose names, with those already given, will all be found in the Will of Napoleon — Saint-Denis, Novarre, Peyron, and Archambaud.

On the 8th of October the expedition anchored at James Town, and on the 15th of October the tomb where the Emperor had so long slept was opened in the presence of the English and French authorities. The work was commenced at one o'clock in the morning, and it was only at eight that the coffin was uncovered, when, under heavy rain, it was carried by the men of the 91st Regiment to a tent placed at hand. At last the different enclosing coffins were opened, and the face of the Emperor was exposed to view. The body had remained intact. "Some of the eyelashes still remained. The cheeks were a little swollen, the beard had grown after death, as had the nails of the fingers and toes. The hands had preserved the colors of life; a burst boot had allowed the toes of one dull white foot to escape. The nose alone, had decayed, but only its lower part. The uniform of the Chasseurs of the Guard was easily recognizable, though the epaulets had lost their brightness, as had some of the small decorations placed on the breast. The two vases holding the heart and the entrails were also found intact and perfectly preserved."¹ The effect was most striking. The coffins had been opened in dead silence; and when the Emperor was revealed as if alive among

¹ *Wouters*, p. 1077.